Miss Adams writes Dr. Clarke on June 10, 1908, expecting her father to come from New York "at any time" to "take [her] away from here" and asking him to "make some inquiries for some jewellery of mine which has gone astray in this place." The phrase is similar to the one used in the letter above, in the context of lost relationships. Since the jewels were given to her by close relations (a ring from her father on her birthday, another from her brother, etc.) they might have symbolized family relation-ships; their loss would have been especially poignant and significant. She describes them circumstantially ("one pearl half crescent, containing the letter `X' in pearls," "one ring containing five opals .... one stone of which had gone," etc.), as one would a lost item one wanted to identify, but perhaps also to prove that she had not merely imagined them.

She calls upon the authorities themselves as witnesses: "[I] have been seen wearing each article here but the topaz broach." However, it is apparent that she does not regard them as honest or above suspicion, as she warns them that if the jewels are not recovered soon her father will search for them; a detective "has the affair in hand." She is understandably milder toward Dr. Clarke, her immediate addressee and the Superintendent of the Asylum, whom she exempts from any responsibility because she had never mentioned the jewellery to him. She explains that she did not immediately advertise for them because she had expected them to be found immediately. She had not noticed when she "dropped [her] purse but ... missed it on leaving Simpsons store."

Although the jewels were "not valuable to some people" they were "invaluable" to Miss Adams and "no substitutes can be accepted." Dwelling on their loss leads to a passage unfavourably contrasting the Asylum and its wicked "hospital nurses" with the "honest household" she has also lost. Blaming the Asylum and its staff for a loss they are not accountable for is probably a means of blaming them for far worse losses that it clearly facilitated. Considering that, unlike most of the writings Porter discusses, none of this material was written with certainty that it would even be read, let alone published, its existence seems all the more remarkable.

(Uncivil Liberties)